

The WPA General Assembly in Prague and the new WPA leadership

The WPA General Assembly was held in Prague on September 22, 2008, within the 14th World Congress of Psychiatry.

The Assembly approved unanimously the admission of five new Member Societies: the Jamaican Psychiatric Association; the Montenegrin Psychiatric Association; the Libyan Association of Psychiatry, Neurology and Neurosurgery; the Saudi Psychiatric Association; and the Psychiatrists' Association of Nepal. The WPA Member Societies are now 134: 28 in the Americas; 62 in Europe; 23 in Africa and the Middle East; and 21 in Asia and the Australasia.

The WPA Action Plan 2008-2011 was unanimously approved. The Association's institutional goals during the triennium will be the following: 1. To enhance the image of psychiatry worldwide among the general public, health professionals and policy makers. 2. To partner with Member Societies in their efforts to improve the quality of mental health care, education and research in their countries and regions, and in their attempts to upgrade their own structure, governance and organizational capacity. 3. To promote the dissemination of information on recent clinical, service and research developments in such a way that it can be assimilated by psychiatrists of all regions of the world. 4. To promote the professional development of young psychiatrists worldwide. 5. To promote the development of mental health care in low-income countries and its integration into primary care. 6. To foster the participation of psychiatrists from all regions of the world in the international dialogue on clinical, service and research issues. 7. To promote the highest ethical standards in psychiatric practice and advocate for the rights of persons with mental disorders in all regions of the world. 8. To promote the establishment of networks of scientists conducting collaborative research in the mental health field. 9. To increase the visibility and credibility of the Association at

the international level. 10. To build up a long-term, solid and transparent partnership with potential donors.

Resulting from the elections which were held during the General Assembly, the composition of the new Executive Committee of the WPA is the following:

President: Mario Maj (Italy)

President-Elect: Pedro Ruiz (USA)

Secretary-General: Levent Küey (Turkey)

Secretary for Finances: Tsuyoshi Akiyama (Japan)

Secretary for Meetings: Tarek Okasha (Egypt)

Secretary for Education: Allan Tasman (USA)

Secretary for Publications: Helen Herrman (Australia)

Secretary for Sections: Miguel Jorge (Brazil)

The composition of the new Board of the Association is the following:

Zone 1 (Canada): Raymond Tempier (Canada)

Zone 2 (United States of America): Michelle B. Riba (USA)

Zone 3 (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean): Mauricio Sanchez (Nicaragua)

Zone 4 (Northern South America): Fabrizio Delgado (Ecuador)

Zone 5 (Southern South America): Luis Risco (Chile)

Zone 6 (Western Europe): Linda Gask (UK)

Zone 7 (Northern Europe): Henrik Wahlberg (Sweden)

Zone 8 (Southern Europe): Miguel Roca Bennasar (Spain)

Zone 9 (Central Europe): Dusica Lecic-Tosevski (Serbia)

Zone 10 (Eastern Europe): Armen Soghoyan (Armenia)

Zone 11 (Northern Africa): Driss Mousaoui (Morocco)

Zone 12 (Middle East): Charles Badoura (Lebanon)

Zone 13 (Central and Western Africa): Joseph Adeyemi (Nigeria)

Zone 14 (Eastern and Southern Africa): Solomon Rataemane (South Africa)

Zone 15 (Central and Western Asia): S. Ahmad Jalili (Iran)

Zone 16 (Southern Asia): E. Mohandas (India)

Zone 17 (Eastern Asia): Naotaka Shinfuku (Japan)

Zone 18 (Australasia and the South Pacific): Julian Freidin (Australia)